

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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NEWS ITEMS, NOTICES AND REPORTS MUST BE SENT TO THE OFFICE NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY EVENING OF EACH WEEK, IF THEY ARE TO APPEAR IN THE CURRENT NUMBER.

TRANSIENT NOTICES, FIFTY CENTS FOR EIGHT LINES, EACH INSERTION. FOR LARGER SPACE AND PERMANENT RATES, APPLY AS ABOVE.

DECORATION DAY.

In so young a nation as our own, the holidays are of rare growth. History makes them—but our history is brief enough. Aside from those which have a large and general interest, like Christmas, New Year's, and Good Friday, we have only three which are red-letter days in the calendar. Washington's Birthday evokes but little enthusiasm, the Fourth of July is rapidly losing its distinctive character, but the Thirtieth of May is notably a date which events have created.

How it began we all know. In the strewing of flowers there was a sweet and simple tribute to the dead. Then, as the various posts of the Grand Army first suggested, there came to be the oration, the poem, and even the sermon. The thronging memories clustered more thickly than the fragrant blossoms which were laid upon the half-forgotten graves.

But, then, some persons, more nice than wise, proclaimed this a sectional celebration. They spoke of it as adapted to foster hate and to keep alive bitterness. They declined to observe that on the other side of the line the same thing had been done from the beginning, and in a much more intense fashion. And all they thought of was the possible outgrowth of a permanent sentiment which might make the "Tories" of our civil war more odious even than those of the Revolution.

Fortunately such carpers speedily lost their precarious vantage ground. The brave and actual combatants of North and South thought none the less of each other because of their kindly remembrance of the dead and their deeds. A squeamish loyalty found little sympathy among the healthy, honest-hearted, patriotic citizens of the land. Therefore, this capriciousness soon expended itself, and may be left out of present account. The country is one at last—one in a truer sense than it has been since Patrick Henry's time. This unity was cemented by the blood of a martyred president, and it will cost more than any extremists can afford to pay, to break it again in twain!

The Southern day has been irregularly and spasmodically observed. In some cases the preference has been for the time chosen in the North for this same celebration. And now that the scars do not throb and twinge as they once did, the way is open for the general acceptance of the 30th of May on each and every year as a Day of Peace and Good Will.

Beyond and above the passing cloud of war the same eternal hills have reared their heads. Fair valleys smile with the harvest tokens of the opening year. The reign of winter is over, and from North to South there is no State but beholds in common with the entire nation the glory of this happy time. It is the day of days to be observed in commemoration of our reunited country. Travel and commerce, literature and labor, have brought the States into a closer union. And whether it be the cotton-ball of the South or the corn-tassel of the North, the hope of the farmer finds its heaven a perfect blue.

Not every grave where the little guidon will be planted is the grave of a hero. Not every name of the dead is a name without a stain. Evil passions and base desires rioted in the midst of patriotic courage and chivalrous zeal. We cannot obliterate the misconceptions and the prejudices, the battle fury and the long hate, which blinded brothers' eyes. But we can do better. Over the cannon we can train the roses. Across the grim, stony front of horrid war the soft thick ivy can climb—covering casemate, and bastion, and sally-port, and embrasure. A lady's favor of delicate flowers may be upon the uniform's lapel. The graves which we honor may be adorned without a needless pang. And while the fresh May skies shine on across the land, we may think of our dead with a gentle grief, and in the mellow soil of a loving spirit we may plant the seeds of forgiveness and of peace.

THE CONVICTION OF HALL.

William A. Hall, the defaulting clerk of the Comptroller's office at Newark, was placed on trial in that city last week—not on the charge of stealing the public money, of which he is known to have taken many thousands of dollars, but on the charge of forging, in having altered a statement in an account made by him in such a way as to cover up a theft of two hundred dollars, which he had committed on that day, or which he purposed to commit.

After a somewhat tedious trial, in which expert testimony bore a conspicuous part and was, as such testimony usually is, as contradictory as can be imagined, the case went to the jury on Friday afternoon and on Saturday morning the prisoner was convicted. This result will be satisfactory to most of the citizens of this county, and especially so if it shall be determined by our courts that a prisoner who has been turned over to our courts by the Canadian officials on the charge of forgery must be released if he cannot be convicted of that offense, even though he may have committed every other form of crime on the statute books.

We can better afford to build larger prisons than to turn loose the men who rob our public corporations.

WATER.

How to obtain an adequate supply of wholesome water is a problem, the importance and difficulty of which grows as population increases. Water is the great enemy of filth and fire. These are destructive enough to life and property anywhere, but their power for evil assumes frightful proportions in crowded quarters. If inhabitants of country regions live in dirt, plenty of fresh air and sunshine go far to counteract the evil; if a fire breaks out, free space limits the damage. But where lofty buildings join one another and shut out light and air, and where a hundred occupy space which should be given to one, not only does danger from fire increase, but the baleful effects of filthy habits are augmented a thousand fold. Darkness, dirt, drunkenness, and disease go hand in hand. A blow struck at any one member of this devil's partnership hurts all the rest. Cleanliness is next to godliness, says the old proverb. Cleanliness without water is impossible. Therefore let us in time provide a plentiful supply of the right kind.

Water, as an external agent, prevents disease by removing causes of it. Water, like any other food, builds up or breaks down the health, as it is good or bad, as it furnishes to the system the elements which it demands, or plants within it the seeds of disease. Regarding water as a food, once more the country has the great advantage. Wells dug at safe distances from stable yards and cesspools, which, by the way, is too seldom the case, furnish pure water. So also do streams and lakes in thinly settled districts, for it is a well known fact that running water purifies itself if the course is long enough and the foreign matters are not in too great quantity. But when a district is built up solid or nearly so, and sinks and wells must be but a few feet apart, and when the soil becomes saturated with contaminating matters, wells become dangerous and should not be used to supply either kettle or pitcher. Streams likewise, in densely populated regions, become the natural necessary, and inevitable receptacles of refuse and sewerage. Until science shall have discovered some means of utilizing the vast sources of agricultural wealth which now daily run off wasted to the sea, there can be no help for this. Legislation is as vain as the bull against the comet. Cisterns, in towns the size of Bloomfield, may be made entirely safe if care is exercised. If some sort of arrangement is used to keep the grosser impurities from finding their way in from the roof and if once or twice a year, depending on the locality, the cistern is thoroughly scrubbed out, no danger need be apprehended. Wells need cause no anxiety if properly protected from surface drainage and situated at a safe distance from the cesspool. Too great attention cannot be given to these matters. The unsuspected cause of many an obscure case of ill-health or active disease may be found in the well or cistern.

It is thus seen how important and yet how difficult it is to secure good water in large sized towns and cities. Wells and cisterns are of little use in case of fire, and while at present they are safe enough sources, as regards health, they cannot indefinitely remain so. A free water supply would be the greatest convenience now, and before many years it will be a necessity. Through the instrumentality of the East Orange Company, the opportunity of obtaining this without risk is offered to us. Surely it is the part of wisdom and sound public policy not to let this rare chance slip through our fingers. What the company can and are willing to do we shall discuss in a subsequent article.

THE Bridge-seers of last Thursday night are outspoken in their disgust at the D. L. & W. R. R. arrangements. They declare that trains stood crowded at Hoboken, and that no effort was made to move them; that everything was from an hour to two hours late, and that there was no "head" anywhere. A railroad corporation having such a piece of work before it as that of Thursday night is simply inexcusable in delaying and obstructing its patrons. The assignable causes of delay do not strike us as at all sufficient.

He who speaks without modesty will find it difficult to make his words good.

OFFENSE AND DEFENSE.

We have received the following communication from a gentleman deeply interested in the success of the Fire Association. As it is a subject of considerable importance to many of our citizens, we give it a prominent place:

To The Bloomfield Citizen:

The active organizers of our Fire Association have before them, for solution, a problem which has been a source of vexation the world over—that of pleasing every one and offending none. We doubt if it has ever been or ever will be solved; and, while the public are entitled to expect prompt action and efficient work in providing means of protecting property from fire, and the views of the subscribers should be consulted, adverse criticism must be expected.

We hope that the Association, which is now incorporated, may prove the nucleus of a fire department which shall do good service in the town and gain the respect and confidence of our citizens. We trust that the difficulties in the way of a thorough organization, and the objections to the mode of procedure adopted, we believe, with good intent, may be obviated in such manner as to strengthen the public faith in the ultimate success of the enterprise.

Mistakes there may be, and errors of judgment; but, if they are promptly corrected, that is all that reason can expect.

When the question of a permanent organization was considered, we have reason to believe that the necessity for incorporating was not thought to be immediate, at any rate it was not fully considered; but the largely increased subscriptions and the considerable amount paid in the delay which would be caused in obtaining the apparatus, if the order was not soon given, and the desire of the committee that the Association, as a corporation, should assume the responsibility of signing the contract for it, forced the conclusion, and the newly elected trustees were directed to incorporate.

It had been intended that, before the incorporation should be acted upon, all the taxpayers should be asked to subscribe, and all subscribers asked to become members, in order that all should have a voice and vote in the final choice of officers and the disposition of the funds.

Every resident of Bloomfield, of good character, was to be given a chance to distinguish himself in conserving the interests of the town, regardless of his financial ability or social qualifications, which were not and are not, we understand, to be considered.

Up to this time, about eighty persons have become members, and as many more who have subscribed, have either not been asked to join the society, or have refused or neglected to signify their wish to do so.

At the meeting, May 7th, to which only members were invited, a board of officers were selected by a nominating committee appointed by the late president, Mr. Bancroft, and were elected by acclamation. "This method of nomination," said

Mr. Weeks, the new president, in his address in opening the meeting on Monday evening last, "has become the rule in all associations, the nature and work of which require officers in earnest and thoroughly in sympathy with the interests of the association."

He said further, that "nominations in open meeting are usually complimentary, and are not found in practice to work to advantage; as persons are often elected whose lack of energy, or want of familiarity with the needs of the association unfits them for the active duty required to make the work successful."

Some of the subscribers have complained that they were not invited to take part in the formation of the permanent Association; and the method of nominating by committee was unfavorably criticised.

These complaints caused the trustees of the Fire Association to consider, at once, the advisability of adopting a plan by which all reasonable objections might be overcome, and by which the enthusiasm, already so apparent, and the confidence of the community as well, might be increased instead of diminished.

The subscribers and members were therefore invited to attend the meeting for incorporation, on Monday evening last; and the new president, Mr. W. R. Weeks, was requested to make an address, in which he should set forth the views of the newly elected trustees.

In his speech he said "It is not desirable, nor was it intended, that the old Association, or its officers, should exist after the incorporation should be effected, when a new election would be necessary."

He stated that the law required the election of trustees of a corporation to be by ballot, the polls to open before 5 P. M., and close before 1 P. M.; but that no method of nomination was specified.

We quote still further: "Had the necessity for an immediate incorporation been fully discussed, previous to that meeting, it is reasonable to suppose that the committee would have recommended that the election of officers be deferred until the work of incorporation should be completed, so as to avoid the necessity of a second election and the confusion incident to change of officers."

Mr. Weeks stated in conclusion that it is the earnest wish of the trustees that the Association should be composed of earnest men, determined to work.

A MEMBER.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

LAP DUSTERS.—A specially attractive line of lap dusters and Sheets opened this week. Dark green shade of mottle cloth is now the leading duster. Geo. Roubaud, 202 Market St., Newark.

BY THE SAD SEA WAVES.—Do you contemplate spending a few weeks at the sea shore? If so, read the advertisement in another column of the Centennial House, at Ocean Grove.

THE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION of Bloomfield will hold its Annual Meeting, June 4. Those interested will please make a note of the date.

EVERY MUSICIAN in Bloomfield knows that Lauter's Musical Instrument Store is the principal establishment of its kind in Newark, but many may not be aware that he has recently enlarged it to double its former capacity, making it one of the largest places of the kind in

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THE CHEERFUL MOSQUITOES, as we stated last week, are on hand for the spring openings; the only way to keep them out is to go to Gage & Tenken's, 27 Barclay St., N. Y., and get a set of their Adjustable Screens for your doors and windows; this done, if they the mosquitoes, not G. & T., still get in, G. & T. can furnish you with canopies so neat and effective as to excite the admiration of even a disappointed mosquito.

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DR. E. M. WARD,
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Bloomfield Ave., near Broad Street,
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Office Hours: 8½ to 10; 6 to 7½.
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Office, 750 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.
Residence: Elm Street, Bloomfield.
Acknowledgments, etc., taken.

EDWIN A. RAYNER,
Attorney at Law,
Office, 757 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.
Residence: Washington Street, Bloomfield.
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WILLIAM R. WEEKS,
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